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Prologue

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PROLOGUE

We are constantly seeking order, and this search necessarily involves both the intellect and experience. Architecture and design are about ideas and how they may be made into tangible forms.

Perhaps the most readily discernible among a number of current architectural issues is the idea of man's relationship to the natural world. In Gary Coates' article a convincing argument for what Louis Kahn terms as the "non-antagonistic" attitude towards nature is made. It is an ideal premised upon the necessary unity of man and nature. This would yield an architecture not of formal mimicry but a sympathetic participatory intervention. This stands in direct opposition with the typical modernist industrial view of man's ultimate control over nature.

The relative way in which these ideas and forms may be perceived by the participant is dealt with in the opening article by Don Hedrick. This essay examines existing stylistic trends in architecture and proposes a new critical attitude which is perhaps consistent with Coates' views. In B.R. Tilghman's short essay questions concerning perception, style, context and the role of traditional deterministic aesthetics are raised.

A number of student projects have been presented in this issue exemplary of some of the work being done at Kansas State University and reflective also of the concerns presented in the written essays.

T.L.B., M.L.G.